

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05918 01 OF 02 031424Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/103 W

-----085804 031431Z /43

R 031412Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7267
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: UNIONS AND SPD STEP UP CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOCKOUTS

REF: BONN 5722

SUMMARY: THE DEMONSTRATIVE SUPPORT WHICH LEADING SPD
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REPRESENTATIVES EXTENDED TO THE UNION CAMPAIGN AGAINST
LOCKOUTS HAS REVIVED LATENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SPD
AND FDP COALITION PARTIES OVER ECONOMIC POLICY
PRINCIPLES. WHILE SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT DECLARED
THAT HE VIEWS EMPLOYER-SPONSORED LOCKOUTS AS A
"QUESTIONABLE INSTRUMENT", FDP ECONOMICS MINISTER GRAF
LAMBSDORFF COUNTERED THAT LOCKOUTS REPRESENT A

"LEGITIMATE EMPLOYER WEAPON", AND THAT HE WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH ANY EFFORTS TO PROVIDE FOR A LEGAL PROHIBITION OF LOCKOUTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 30, THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG DGB GATHERED ABOUT 30,000 UNION ACTIVISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNION-SPONSORED MASS RALLIES IN 30 CITIES THROUGHOUT BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG TO STRESS SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRIKING METALWORKERS AND TO PROTEST AGAINST THE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED LOCKOUTS IN THE NORTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG METAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. IN A TELEGRAM TO THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE DGB IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, LOTHAR ZIMMERMANN, SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT AND BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SPD CHAIRMAN ERHARD EPPLER DECLARED THAT THEY VIEWED LOCKOUTS AS A "QUESTIONABLE INSTRUMENT." THE EMPLOYERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MEANS IS NOT APPLIED ANYWHERE IN EUROPE OUTSIDE THE FRG, THE TELEGRAM EMPHASIZED. SIMILAR CRITICISM HAS BEEN VOICED RECENTLY BY OTHER LEADING SPD REPRESENTATIVES, SUCH AS SPD BUNDESTAG FACTION CHAIRMAN HERBERT WEHNER.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DUESSELDORF ECONOMIC JOURNAL "HANDELSBLATT", FDP ECONOMICS MINISTER GRAF LAMBSDORFF STATED THAT HE VIEWED "DEFENSIVE LOCKOUTS" AS A LEGITIMATE EMPLOYERS' WEAPON. REFERRING TO UNION EFFORTS TO HAVE LOCKED OUT UNION MEMBERS IN

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NORTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SUBMIT INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS IN THE COMPETENT LABOR COURTS, HE SAID THAT HE VIEWS SUCH PRACTICES AS "A POLITICAL ABUSE OF JUSTICE". HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE FDP WOULD BY NO MEANS SUPPORT ANY EFFORTS IN THE BUNDESTAG TO OBTAIN A LEGAL PROHIBITION OF LOCKOUTS "UNLESS SUCH A BILL WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY DESIGNED TO PROHIBIT UNION-SPONSORED SELECTIVE STRIKES."

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USEEC & EMBASSY

3. LAMBSDORFF ALSO WAS CRITICAL OF THE UNION'S EFFORTS
IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG TO OBTAIN FAR-REACHING GUARAN-
TEES OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE LEVELS IN THE CASE OF
TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES. SUCH CLAUSES NEGOTIATED UNDER
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS WOULD PRESERVE THE STATUS OF
THE PRESENT JOBHOLDERS, BUT BLOCK THE ROAD TO NEW-
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COMERS, PARTICULARLY YOUTHS, HE ARGUED. COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS IN NORTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG
HAVE BEEN BURDENED "WITH THE CLARIFICATION OF BASIC
ISSUES." IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER IF SUCH CLARIFICA-
TION COULD HAVE BEEN FOUND WITHOUT TIME PRESSURE WITH-
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE "CONCERTED ACTION", LAMBSDORFF
EMPHASIZED.

4. A SOURCE OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN UNION AND MANAGE-
MENT IN AREAS OUTSIDE NORTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG HAS
BEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF PART-TIME WORK IN METAL FAC-
TORIES AFFECTED BY THE NON-DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL PARTS

FROM STRUCK FIRMS IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. FOLLOWING
UNION INSTRUCTIONS, WORKS COUNCILS GENERALLY REFUSED TO
APPROVE MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS TO THE COMPETENT
EMPLOYMENT OFFICES FOR INTRODUCTION OF PART-TIME WORK.
THE WORKS COUNCILS ARGUED THAT PART-TIME WORK COULD
BE AVOIDED BY INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES, SUCH
AS REDUCTION OF WORK SPEED PARTICULARLY ON THE ASSEM-
BLY LINES AND INTRODUCTION OF MORE RECREATION BREAKS.
UNION AND WORKS COUNCIL ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN LABOR
COURT INJUNCTIONS AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF
PART-TIME WORK HAVE FAILED, HOWEVER.
STOESSEL

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